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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001219

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SA, SA/INS; NSC FOR E. MILLARD

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07-22-14

TAGS: [PREL](#) [CE](#) [NO](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: PEACE PROCESS TIDBITS

Refs: (A) Colombo 1216 and previous

(U) Classified by Ambassador Jeffrey J. Lunstead.
Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

1. (C) SUMMARY: An LTTE official requested and received a meeting with the GSL on July 20. Meanwhile, when Parliament reconvened, TNA MPs broached the ISGA as a basis for talks. The discussion was postponed. Violent episodes between LTTE cadre loyal to the Wannai and those loyal to breakaway eastern leader Karuna continue to plague the east. In Trincomalee, Muslims staged a hartal (strike) to protest LTTE abuses of the Muslim community. In ongoing "shuttle diplomacy," the Norwegians continue to pressure the Tigers and the GSL to return to peace talks END SUMMARY.

Tigers Warming Up to GSL?

2. (C) A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) official requested and received a meeting with the GSL on July 20. Secretary General of GSL Peace Secretariat Jayantha Dhanapala met with Secretary General of LTTE Peace Secretariat S. Puleedevan in Colombo. Media reports described the meeting as a "courtesy call," and noted that it was the highest-level meeting between the GSL and the LTTE since the parliamentary election in April. Dhanapala told Ambassador that Puleedevan (who travels frequently to Colombo) called him up out of the blue and suggested the meeting. Dhanapala saw no reason not to oblige. Puleedevan, however, is not a decision-maker within the LTTE.

TNA MPs broach ISGA in Parliament

3. (C) Meanwhile, the Parliament convened for the fifth time on July 20. Tamil National Alliance (TNA) MPs wanted the Interim Self Governing Authority (ISGA) as a basis for peace talks to be the first item debated, but the topic was postponed until August. On July 21, Kajendran, (a new TNA MP from Jaffna, and rumored to be Prabhakaran's future son-in-law) accused the GSL of not taking an interest in the peace process and said that an outbreak of war was possible. Should that happen, he continued, the 60,000 Sri Lanka Army personnel in the North and East could end up going to Colombo in body bags. After a UPFA MP moved toward him (and was restrained by other MPS,) Kajendran clarified that he really meant that there should not be an occasion for war to break out. A Jathika Hela Urumaya MP asked that Kajendran's remarks be stricken from the record, which was done.

Violence in the East Continues

4. (U) Violent episodes between LTTE cadre loyal to the Wannai and those loyal to breakaway eastern leader Karuna continue to plague the east, especially near Batticaloa. In a Batticaloa prison, an LTTE cadre killed two pro-Karuna cadres and injured a third on July 15. One of the victims, known as Maran, was the LTTE military leader in Ampara prior to the LTTE split in March. After the split, he briefly acted as Karuna's spokesman. Karuna had proposed Maran as the Secretary of his new party, the Democratic Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

5. (C) The LTTE is also targeting other groups in the east. On July 21, a cadre from the anti-LTTE Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP) was killed near Akaraipattu, south of Batticaloa. The EPDP cadre was a Pradeshiya Sabha (town council) leader. His predecessor, also an EPDP cadre, was also killed by the LTTE.

6. (C) Near Trincomalee, Muslims in Kinniya held a hartal (general strike) on July 20 to protest LTTE kidnappings of Muslims near the Maniraskulum camp. Thirteen Muslims who had been gathering firewood and rubble for livelihood purposes were held by the LTTE and

forced to gather rocks for the Tigers, who are rumored to be building in the area. Typically, Muslims "caught" working in this way are fined, but not held. In this case, ten of the Muslims were released, except three who were held for several more days. One of the three was badly beaten and required hospitalization.

Norwegians Keep Up the Pressure for Peace Talks

17. (U) The Norwegians continue to pressure the Tigers and the GSL to return to peace talks via ongoing "shuttle diplomacy." One July 22, Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission Leader General Trond Furuhovde met with LTTE leadership in Kilinochchi to discuss safeguarding the Cease-Fire Agreement(CFA) and recent CFA violations. Media reports indicate his meeting was in preparation for Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgessen's July 25 visit to Sri Lanka.

LUNSTEAD